(xi) An amount of Rs. 45 lakhs each released under Reproductive and Child Health Services to the states of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa for IEC activities with the condition to utilize 30% of the total amount on mass media activities and 70 % of the amount on sensitization purposes may be utilized to create awareness on the activities of EAG.

Water-borne diseases

3688. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the water-borne diseases are on the rise in various parts of the country ; and

(b) the precautionary measures being taken by Government to prevent these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) : The Government is aware that despite the various steps being taken, there continues to be a prevalence of water-borne diseases in some parts of the country.

The precautionary measures being taken by the Government include provision of safe drinking water and taking adequate steps to improve hygienic sanitation facilities to the vulnerable sections of the society both in rural and urban areas. Steps have also been taken to create awareness among the masses about good sanitary habits and health seeking behaviour which will contribute to reduction of incidence of water borne diseases. The Government has also initiated an Oral Rehrydration Therapy Programme and a National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases as a pilot project in selected districts for detection of early warning signals of outbreaks for cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases and rapid response for prevention and control of these outbreaks.

ORS for children with diarrhoea

3689. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that only 27 per cent children with diarrhoea in the country receive ORS;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that every minute one child dies in the country due to diarrhoea which can be easily prevented by a simple solution of ORS; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to ensure the reach-out of ORS packets to every child in need ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) : The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) (1998-99) reported that 27 per cent children under the age of three years with a recent bout of diarrhoea were given ORS. The proportion of children receiving ORS in 1992-93 by NFHS was reported to be 18 per cent. Reasons for relatively low use of ORS include low prescription rate of ORS by physicians in preference to use of anti-diarrhoeals and antibiotics and inadquate awareness and acceptance of ORS by the community.

(c) ORS solution is used to prevent and treat dehydration in cases of diarrhoea. At current rates of child mortality, it is estimated that annually 2.4 lakh child deaths can be attributed to diarrhoea. This averages to one death every 2.2 minutes.

(d) Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme 300 ORS packets are supplied to all sub-centres every year as a part of drug kit A. Medical and paramedical staff are being reoriented and trained to use ORS in children with diarrhoea. Use of ORS by the community is being popularized through Information, Education and Communication programmes.

Assistance given by HSCC

†3690. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation provides assistance for construction of hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the nature of assistance provided by the said Corporation for construction of hospitals;

(c) whether the Corporation has contributed in construction of hospitals in various regions of the country during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(d) if so, the number of projects given assistance during each of the above years alongwith the nature of assistance provided to each of them, Project-wise; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.